

July 27, 2000

Memorial in Jerusalem. Karski is also an honorary citizen of Israel, the recipient of a special citation by the United Nations, and the recipient of the Order of the Virtuti Militari, the highest Polish military decoration.

Jan Karski's humility was always evident throughout his life. When visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, he came upon the Rescuer's Wall, where tribute is paid to non-Jews who helped to save Jewish lives. He quickly passed the plaque upon which his own name was inscribed, instead preferring to seek out the names of his underground comrades. He was always quick to point out that "the Jews were abandoned by governments, by church hierarchies, and by societal structures. But they were not abandoned by all humanity." He felt that he was no different from anyone else who tried to ease the plight of the Jewish people. Remarkably, he insisted that he did "nothing extraordinary."

In an editorial last week paying tribute to Jan Karski, the Washington Post (July 19, 2000) observed: "A community's heroes are not necessarily its noisiest or most prominent citizens. Certainly neither adjective applied to Jan Karski, . . . but Mr. Karski was an authentic moral hero." Despite his protestations, Jan Karski's contribution to humanity was indeed remarkable. Shimon Peres said, "A great man is one who stands head and shoulder above his people, a man who, when surrounded by overpowering evil and blind hatred, does all in his power to stem the tide. Karski ranks high in the all-too-brief list of such great and unique personalities who stood out in the darkest age of Jewish history." And in the words of Elie Wiesel: "Jan Karski: a brave man? Better: a just man."

Mr. Speaker, once again I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the courage and selflessness of Jan Karski. He was an authentic moral hero who risked his life to fulfill what he considered to be his duty as a human being.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 429, on motion to grant the consent of the Congress to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture District Compact, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 430, motion to Community Renewal and New Markets Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 431, motion on Innocent Child Protect Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 432, motion on Veterans Claims Assistance Act, had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on roll call no. 433, to suspend the rules and agree to Fisherman's Protective Act Amendments, had I been present, I would have voted "nay";

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INDIA COALITION PARTNER THREATENS TO ENGULF COUNTRY IN VIOLENCE

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, last week, Bal Thackeray, founder and head of Shiv Sena, threatened to engulf India in violence if he is held accountable for his part in thousands of deaths in 1992.

Shiv Sena is a coalition partner of the ruling BJP. Shiv Sena has been assigned responsibility for the bombing of the Ayodhya mosque in Uttar Pradesh.

How could a democratic country accept a violent, intolerant person like this into the government? It is bad enough that the allies of the government commit atrocities and no one is ever held to account. Now a coalition partner says that he will engulf the country in violence. This shows that violence and intolerance are the prevailing way to life in India. Minorities are suffering from the intolerance of militant Hindu fundamentalists.

A wave of violence against Christians has swept India since Christmas 1998. The most recent incident was the bombing of two churches in the state of Karnataka. The violence against Christians has been so severe that they appealed to the international community for help. Churches have been burned and now bombed. There have been attacks on prayer halls, Christian schools, and other Christian institutions. Militant Hindu nationalists burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young boys to death in their jeep while they were sleeping.

These atrocities show the truth about India. If it is "the world's largest democracy," how can it allow atrocities like this to keep occurring with nobody being held responsible? As the world's only superpower and the bastion of freedom for the world, we should take action. We should stop aid to India until all people within its borders enjoy human rights. And we should put the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and all the countries seeking their freedom from India.

I submit the article on Mr. Thackeray into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker. I hope everyone will read it.

[From the New York Times International,
July 17, 2000]

PROTESTS BY HINDU GROUP RAISE FEAR IN INDIA

BOMBAY, July 16 (Reuters)—Much of Bombay was shut down today by fear and protests over the possible prosecution of a militant Hindu leader in connection with riots that left more than 2,000 people dead in 1992.

Supporters of Bal Thackeray, the leader of the Hindu nationalist party Shiv Sena, took to the Streets Saturday after the Maharashtra State government decided to let the police prosecute him in the country-wide rioting. That violence, directed mainly at India's Muslim minority, erupted after the destruction of a mosque in the town of Ayodhya, and Shiv Sena got most of the blame.

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Police officials said no action had been taken to arrest Mr. Thackeray, but many shops closed and people stayed indoors here and in other parts of the state as Shiv Sena supporters pelted buses with stones and blocked commuter train services.

Today Mr. Thackeray appealed for calm, but on Saturday he was quoted as saying, "Not only Maharashtra but the entire country will burn" as a result of the decision, which he called "an incitement to communal riots."

CONGRATULATING HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL EAST

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate a distinguished group of students from the Half Hollow Hills High School in Dix Hills, New York.

These students recently won the Region 5 award at the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution" national finals held here in Washington, DC. This award is presented to the school in each of five geographic regions with the highest cumulative score during the first two days of the national finals. These outstanding young people competed against 50 other classes from throughout the nation and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

Our United States Constitution is over 200 years old. Two-thirds of the world's constitutions have been adopted since 1970. Only fifteen other constitutions predate WWII and none predate the U.S. Constitution. Recent studies show that approximately half of American adults do not know that the purpose of the original Constitution was to create a federal government and define its power. The educators and students of Dix Hills have proven that they do not fall into this category and it is an honor to recognize their achievement.

I wish to congratulate Ms. Gloria Sesso and her students Isaac Chen, Jeffrey Chernick, Alyssa Cohen, Zachary Cohn, Michael Givner, Michael Gold, Sarah Gowrie, Yonathan Hertz, Michael Lee, Jonathan Lehrer, Jessica Levine, Amanda Manaro, Seth Moskowitz, Brian Nakash, Justin Pomerantz, Rahul Sharma, Jared Stone, Jeffrey Tsai, Lauren Tuzzolino, and Jared Warsaw.

HONORING PHILIP ROSENBLOOM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Philip Rosenbloom of Monmouth Beach, Monmouth County, who will be celebrating on August 1st his 75th birthday. Phil Rosenbloom has devoted much of his adult life enhancing the civic and cultural life of my district, and I wish to honor his contributions.

A native of Monmouth County, Phil Rosenbloom grew up in Asbury Park, where